

A NEW FORM OF THE BURROWING SNAKE, *UROPELTIS*
MACROLEPIS (PETERS) FROM MAHABLESHWAR

BY

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I recently (JBNHS, 50: 950; 51: 512) had occasion to draw attention to some specimens of the earthsnake, *Uropeltis macrolepis* (Peters) obtained at Mahableshwar, Satara District, Bombay, which differed from the descriptions in the old and new Faunas, not only in the presence of an unbroken line along the side, but also in the scalation. Messrs. Humayun Abdulali and D. J. Panday have since brought in a dozen more specimens from the same locality which confirm my findings. In view of the consistency of the differences previously mentioned I think it desirable to give subspecific recognition to this population. I therefore propose to call it:

***Uropeltis macrolepis mahableshwarensis* ssp. nov.**

It differs from the typical form in the following characters:—

(a) An unbroken yellow line along the whole length of the body on both sides. In the typical form the line breaks up into a series of spots about an inch from the anterior end.

(b) The sub-caudals range from 9 to 13 as against 7 to 10 in specimens from other localities as per the Fauna.

(c) The ventrals range from 120 to 125 as against 128 to 140 in specimens from other localities as per the Fauna.

9 specimens in our collection from Khandala, Lonavla, Igatpuri and Matheran ('Bombay Hills') agree in their scale counts with the Fauna description.

Type: A female bearing register No. 1994 in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society collected by Mr. Humayun Abdulali at Mahableshwar on 17-10-1951.

Distribution: Restricted to Mahableshwar, ca. 4,500 ft., Satara District, Bombay State.